

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action of December 24, 2008. Claims 1 to 16, 19 to 41, 43 to 61, 64 to 76, and 78 to 93, 103, 117, 121, 125, and 126 are pending in this application. Claims 17, 18, 42, 62, 63, 77, 97 to 103, 107, 94 to 96, 104 to 106, 108 to 110, 111 to 113, 114 to 116, 118 to 120, and 122 to 124 were previously canceled. Claims 14, 36, and 60 have also now been canceled. Claims 1, 15, 16, 28, 37 to 39, 47, 52, 57, 61, 66 to 69, 72, 75, 78 to 81, 84, 87 to 91, 103, 117, and 121 have been amended. No new matter is introduced by these amendments. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 to cover the cost of any fees due in connection with this Response.

On page 6 of the Office Action, the Office Action indicates that Claims 1 to 16, 19 to 41, 43 to 61, 64 to 76, and 78 to 93, 103, 117, 121, 125, and 126 are allowable over the prior art.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 to 16, 19 to 41, 43 to 61, 64 to 76, and 78 to 93, 103, 117, 121, 125, and 126 under 35 U.S.C. §101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. More specifically, the Office Action indicates that the pending claims do not meet §101 eligibility because there is no transformation of a composition of matter from one form to another, nor do the claims tie the executed steps to a particular machine or apparatus. Certain of the claims have been amended in accordance with the Office Action's recommendations. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections have been overcome and that this application is in condition for formal allowance.

If the Examiner would like to discuss further clarifications to the claims, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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